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FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS ANGOLA VERIFICATION MISSION

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Igor V. GOUMENNY (Ukraine)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1996, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-first session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the reports of the Secretary-General (A/51/494 and Add.1 and 2) and of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/51/700 and Corr.1).

3. The Committee considered the item at its 40th and 44th meetings, on 11 and 15 December 1996. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/51/SR.40 and 44).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.5/51/L.20

4. At the 44th meeting, on 15 December, the representative of Portugal introduced a draft resolution, as orally amended, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission" (A/C.5/51/L.20), which had been submitted by the Chairman following informal consultations.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.20, as orally amended, without a vote (see para. 6).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission,[1] the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[2] and the related comments and observations in the reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services[3] and the Board of Auditors,[4]

Bearing in mind Security Council resolutions 626 (1988) of 20 December 1988, by which the Council established the United Nations Angola Verification Mission, 696 (1991) of 30 May 1991, by which the Council decided to entrust a new mandate to the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (thenceforth called the United Nations Angola Verification Mission II), 976 (1995) of 8 February 1995, by which the Council authorized the establishment of a peacekeeping operation (thenceforth called the United Nations Angola Verification Mission III) and its subsequent resolutions, the latest of which was resolution 1087 (1996) of 11 December 1996, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Verification Mission until 28 February 1997,

Recalling its resolution 43/231 of 16 February 1989 on the financing of the Verification Mission and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 50/209 B of 7 June 1996,

Reaffirming that the costs of the Verification Mission are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling also its previous decisions regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Verification Mission, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the

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[1] A/51/494 and Add.1 and 2.

[2] A/51/700 and Corr.1.

[3] A/51/432.

[4] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 5 (A/51/5), vol. II.

economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Verification Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Concerned that the Secretary-General continues to face difficulties in meeting the obligations of the Verification Mission on a current basis, including reimbursement to current and former troop-contributing States,

1. Takes note of the status of contributions to the United Nations Angola Verification Mission as at 10 December 1996, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 127,520,046 United States dollars, representing 23 per cent of the total assessed contributions from the inception of the Verification Mission to the period ending 11 December 1996, notes that some 19 per cent of the membership has paid its assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. Expresses concern about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursement of troop contributors, which bear burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

3. Expresses its appreciation to those Member States that have paid their assessed contributions in full;

4. Urges all Member States to make every possible effort to ensure the payment of their assessed contributions to the Verification Mission in full and on time;

5. Endorses the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[2]

6. Requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Verification Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

7. Also requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary actions to address relevant findings and to implement the relevant recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the Board of Auditors in respect of the Verification Mission;

8. Decides to appropriate the amount of 137,978,400 dollars gross (134,980,800 dollars net) for the maintenance of the Verification Mission for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997, inclusive of the amount of

4,048,400 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations, in addition to the amount of 170,118,500 dollars gross (166,984,100 dollars net) already appropriated for the period from 1 July to 31 December 1996 under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 50/209 B;

9. Decides also, as an ad hoc arrangement, to apportion the amount of 137,978,400 dollars gross (134,980,800 dollars net) for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997 among Member States at a monthly rate of 22,996,400 dollars gross (22,496,800 dollars net) beginning 1 January 1997, in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995 and 50/224 of 11 April 1996 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B of 23 December 1995, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the year 1997, as set out in its resolution 49/19 B of 23 December 1994 and its decision 50/471 A of 23 December 1995, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Verification Mission beyond 28 February 1997;

10. Decides further that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 9 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the additional estimated staff assessment income of 2,997,600 dollars approved for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997;

11. Decides that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Verification Mission, there shall be set off against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 9 above, their respective share in the unencumbered balance of 20,790,900 dollars gross (20,639,700 dollars net) for the period from 9 February to 31 December 1995;

12. Decides also that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Verification Mission, their share of the unencumbered balance of 20,790,900 dollars gross (20,639,700 dollars net) for the period from 9 February to 31 December 1995 shall be set off against their outstanding obligations;

13. Invites voluntary contributions to the Verification Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 43/230 of 21 December 1988, 44/192 A of 21 December 1989 and 45/258 of 3 May 1991;

14. Decides to keep under review during its fifty-first session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission".